

ACCESS *ai* PRESS

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STATE HOMEPAGE GETS NEW LOOK AND NAME

Idaho's official homepage is now easier to use and remember. The latest version of the website allows for quicker access to the most used services and information in state government. The site's design has been updated, and the simple new address, idaho.gov, is part of Idaho government's new policy for web addresses.

According to Pam Ahrens, director of the Department of Administration, the state's Information Technology Strategic Plan calls for a statewide approach to make it easier for citizens, businesses and visitors to complete electronic transactions and access government information online through a single, easily recognizable presence on the internet.

The newly redesigned homepage serves as the gateway to all forms of government in the Gem State.

Improved category organization, a more robust search function, as well as links to Spanish pages and resources, distinguish idaho.gov from the state's old format. Citizens and businesses can quickly access more than a half million web pages of state news, information and online interactive services.

The idaho.gov website offers over 45 online services, including vehicle license registration renewal (Ada, Canyon, Gooding, Kootenai, Oneida, and Twin Falls Counties only); personal and business tax filing and payment; motor carrier permit, registration and endorsement purchasing; UCC lien search, filing and amendment; professional license renewal; and the offender database search.

The attractive, clutter-free homepage incorporates the common graphic branding of the word "Idaho," as developed and promoted by the Idaho Department of Commerce and Labor. The state last redesigned its web site (which originally launched as www.accessidaho.org in 2000) in January 2002. Since then, site usage has grown rapidly as more and more citizens (about 8,000 per day) discover the increasing number of online services offered.

Noticeably absent from idaho.gov is "www" and the alphabet soup-like format characteristic of the addresses it replaces (www.accessidaho.org and www.state.id.us). The simplified, more logical website naming style is designed to help eliminate user confusion and frustration. Web

addresses containing "idaho.gov" give a clear indication of which sites officially belong to Idaho state government.

Although the old addresses will automatically link to idaho.gov, it is recommended that you update your web browser's "Favorites" list, as the old address will eventually be phased out.

The State of Idaho currently owns two enterprise-level

domains, "idaho.gov" and "id.gov."

"Idaho.gov" will be used for state government entities' domain structures (example: "state-agency".idaho.gov) for all internet websites and e-mail domains. The "id.gov" domain will be offered to local government organizations, such as cities and counties. *ai*



NEW STATE SITE OPENS FOR BUSINESS

Over two dozen state agencies collaborated to develop business.idaho.gov, a one-stop comprehensive website specifically catered to companies who do business in or with Idaho. The new site includes links to government agencies and resources that are necessary for starting and operating a business in Idaho.



Divided into four main sections—Starting a Business, Running a Business, Relocating a Business, and Closing a Business—business.idaho.gov covers everything from developing a business plan to rules and regulations to business news and events.

In addition to providing information, it also links to online interactive services, such as new business registrations, paying and filing taxes, posting and managing job listings, liens searches, permitting and licensing, plus much more. @i

\$20,000

The annual savings one trucking company reported it saves by using the Idaho Transportation Department's paperless online hazardous materials endorsements service.

INCREASE YOUR ACCESS-ABILITY

Useful Ideas for Subscribers

Accessing Your Account Safely



At Access Idaho, we want to ensure that you have a secure and convenient way to manage your account. With a few simple steps, you can protect your account and personal information from fraudulent activity:

- Delete any email without opening it if you don't recognize the sender.
- Be suspicious of any email that asks for personal information, requests your authentication, or indicates a problem with your Access Idaho business account. If you receive a message like this, do not reply by email. Instead, contact us at 208-332-0102 (toll free, 1-877-443-3468) to verify the legitimacy of the email. **Access Idaho does not request personal information from customers via email or pop-up windows.**
- Only provide your personal information if you initiated the sign-on process to your Access Idaho account.
- Use virus protection software, and keep virus lists current.
- Keep your computer operating system and web browser up-to-date.

You can learn more about the latest virus threats and security advisories by checking your anti-virus provider's website. @i

COMING SOON TO IDAHO.GOV

New/Renewal IFTA Registration

Idaho became the first state to offer the convenience and accuracy of online IFTA filing. The Idaho State Tax Commission, in conjunction with Access Idaho, is scheduled to launch an online IFTA registration renewal service and an online new IFTA registration service in November 2004 and April 2005, respectively.



Withholding Tax Reconciliation

Beginning in January 2005, your business will be able to file and pay Idaho withholding tax reconciliation returns electronically. A fully functional online version of Idaho Form 956 is currently in the works that will calculate total taxes due and accept payments electronically by credit card, voucher, or electronic fund transfer (EFT).